

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a). providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b). providing a published ranking of winning hands ~~ranked from highest to lowest~~;
- (c). providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d). providing a dealer and at least one player;
- (e). commencing the game by having ~~the~~ at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following:
 - (1) a first wager against the dealer, and
 - (2) a separate voluntary wager against ~~a~~ the predetermined pay scale;
- (f). dealing at least four cards to ~~each~~ the at least one player from the at least one standard deck;
- (g). dealing at least four cards to the dealer ~~from the at least one standard deck~~;
- (h). said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a ~~third~~ support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;
- (i). comparing the at least one player's best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine ~~the a~~ relative ranking therebetween;
- (j). paying the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and the at least one player's ~~third~~ support wager if the at least one player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;
- (k). paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking;
- (l). taking the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's ~~hand~~ fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published ranking;

(m). taking the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and ~~third-support~~ wager if the dealer's hand outranks the at least one player's hand; and

(n). returning the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and ~~third-support~~ wager if said at least one player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, wherein ~~a~~-the at least one player is provided with an opportunity to place an additional bad beat wager including the further steps of:

providing a ~~pre-determined~~ predetermined published ranking of winning bad beat hands, permitting the at least one player to place an additional wager against said ~~pre-determined~~ predetermined published ranking of winning bad beat hands,

providing that the at least one player ~~may win~~ said additional wager even in the event the at least one player's hand is outranked by the dealer's hand so long as the at least one player's hand appears on the ~~pre-determined~~ predetermined published ranking of winning bad beat hands.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of playing a wagering game as set-forth in claim 1 above, wherein the dealer and ~~each~~-the at least one player ~~is~~-are dealt five cards, and each of the dealer and the at least one player ~~can~~-continue play with the ~~a~~ best hand achievable by any four of the five dealt cards and exclude the fifth card, ~~the method further comprising a step of and~~ determining ~~a~~-the winning best hand by comparing the four card combination of ~~each~~-the at least one player's hand against the dealer's hand and against any predetermined ~~pre-determined~~-pay scale in the event of optional bets placed by the at least one player by such predetermined ~~pre-determined~~-pay scales.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, which provides for the at least one player~~s~~ to place an additional side bets, wherein the ~~game method~~ further includes steps of:

providing ~~each~~-the at least one player with an additional optional progressive wager for a five card progression,

providing a ~~predetermined pre-determined~~ published ranking of winning five card progressive hands,

providing a ~~predetermined pre-determined~~ pay scale for each of said ~~predetermined pre-determined~~ ranking of winning five card progressive hands,

allowing the wagering game to continue with the best of four cards, and

paying the ~~at least one player's~~ progressive optional wager if the ~~at least one player's~~ five card hand matches any one of the ~~predetermined pre-determined~~ published ranking of winning five card progressive hands.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, wherein the dealer ~~must~~ achieve a qualifying hand of ~~at least tie high to continue playing and the failure to achieve said qualifying hand results in the dealer losing and paying~~ ~~and the at least one player the initial ante~~ first wager by ~~each the at least one player against the~~ dealer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 5 above, wherein the ~~necessary~~ qualifying hand required by the dealer in order to continue to play may be ~~predetermined pre-determined~~ in accordance with any desired ranking.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player comprising the steps of:

- (a). providing at least one standard deck of 52 playing cards;
- (b). providing a published ranking of winning hands ~~ranked from highest to lowest~~;
- (c). providing a predetermined pay scale for winning hands;
- (d). providing a set ~~predetermined pre-determined~~ minimum hand ranking for a player to achieve as a qualifying hand without which a player will lose after all cards are dealt;
- (e). providing a dealer and at least one player;

(f). commencing the game by having the at least one player make certain initial wagers selected from the following;

(1) a first wager against the dealer, and

(2) a separate voluntary wager against ~~a~~ the predetermined pay scale;

(g). dealing at least four cards to ~~each~~ the at least one player from the at least one standard deck;

(h). dealing at least four cards to the dealer from the at least one standard deck;

(i). ending the game if the at least one player fails to achieve a qualifying hand in accordance with said ~~predetermined pre-determined minimum~~ hand ranking and the dealer taking the at least one player's first wager;

(j). proceeding with the game if the at least one player has achieved said qualifying hand;

(k). said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a ~~third~~ support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer;

(l). comparing the at least one player's best four card hand against the dealer's best four card hand and excluding all extra cards dealt to determine ~~the a~~ relative ranking therebetween;

(m). paying the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and ~~the at least one~~ player's ~~third~~ support wager if the at least one player's hand outranks the dealer's hand;

(n). paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand has achieved a rank at least as high as the first ranking from said published ranking; and

(o). taking the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's hand fails to achieve at least the minimum ranking from said published rankings.

Claim 9 (new): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 1 above, further including steps of:

providing a set predetermined minimum hand ranking for the dealer to achieve as a qualifying hand without which the dealer will lose after all cards are dealt;

ending the game if the dealer fails to achieve the qualifying hand in accordance with said predetermined minimum hand ranking and the dealer paying the at least one player's first wager if the at least one player placed the first wager against the dealer and paying the at least one player's separate voluntary wager if the at least one player waged the separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale and achieved a ranking hand pursuant to said published ranking; and

proceeding with the game if the dealer has achieved the qualifying hand.

Claim 10 (new): The method of playing a wagering game as set forth in claim 8 above, further including steps of:

(p). taking the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if the dealer's hand outranks the at least one player's hand; and

(q). returning the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if said at least one player has the same ranking hand as the dealer.

Claim 11 (new): A system for playing a wagering game, the system comprising:

means for providing a published ranking of winning four card hands;

means for permitting entry, by at least one player, of a first wager against a dealer;

means for providing at least four cards to the at least one player;

means for providing at least four cards to the dealer;

means for permitting entry, by the at least one player, of a support wager in support of the first wager against the dealer; and

means for providing payment to the at least one player based on the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and based on the at least one player's support wager if the at least one player's best four card hand outranks the dealer's best four card hand.

Claim 12 (new): The system of claim 11, further comprising means for returning the at least one player's first wager against the dealer and support wager if said at least one player has the same ranking four card hand as the dealer.

Claim 13 (new): The system of claim 11, wherein the system is an electrical device.

Claim 14 (new): The system of claim 11, wherein the dealer is dealt at least five cards and the at least one player is dealt five cards.

Claim 15 (new): The system of claim 14, wherein the dealer is dealt six cards.

Claim 16 (new): The system of claim 14, wherein the dealer is dealt exactly five cards.

Claim 17 (new): The system of claim 11, further comprising:

- means for providing a predetermined minimum four card hand ranking for the dealer to achieve as a qualifying four card hand without which the dealer will lose after all cards are dealt;

- means for ending the game if the dealer fails to achieve the qualifying four card hand in accordance with said predetermined minimum four card hand ranking;

- means for paying the at least one player's first wager if the at least one player placed the first wager against the dealer; and

- means for proceeding with the game if the dealer has achieved the qualifying four card hand.

Claim 18 (new): The system of claim 11, further comprising means for taking the at least one player's first wager against the dealer if the dealer's best four card hand outranks the at least one player's best four card hand.

Claim 19 (new): The system of claim 11, further comprising:

- means for permitting entry, by the at least one player, of a separate voluntary wager against a predetermined pay scale for winning four card hands; and

means for providing payment to the at least one player based on the at least one player's separate voluntary wager against the predetermined pay scale if the at least one player's best four card hand has achieved a rank at least as high as a predefined minimum ranking.

Claim 20 (new): A method of playing a wagering game including a dealer and at least one player, said method comprising:

- providing a ranking of winning hands;
- dealing at least four cards to the at least one player;
- dealing at least four cards to the dealer;
- comparing a best four card hand of the player against a best four card hand of the dealer;

and

determining whether the best four card hand of the at least one player is higher ranked with respect to the ranking of winning hands than the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 21 (new): The method of claim 20, further comprising:

- allowing the at least one player to make a first wager against the dealer;
- paying the at least one player's first wager if the best four card hand of the at least one player is higher ranked than the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 21, further comprising taking the at least one player's first wager if the best four card hand of the at least one player is not higher ranked than the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 21, further comprising returning the at least one player's first wager if the best four card hand of the at least one player has the same rank as the best four card hand of the dealer.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 20, wherein the dealer is an electronic device.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

said at least one player proceeding to play the game by placing a support wager in support of its first wager against the dealer.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the support wager is of proportionate value to the first wager.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 8, wherein the support wager is of proportionate value to the first wager.

Claim 28 (new): The system of claim 11, wherein the support wager is of proportionate value to the first wager.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 25, wherein the support wager is of proportionate value to the first wager.